

REMARKS

The Applicants thank the Examiner for performing a thorough search. In this reply, Claims 12 and 14 are amended. Claims 13, 17, 30, and 34 are canceled. Claims 1-12, 14-16, 18-29, and 31-33 are pending.

CLAIM REJECTIONS—35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-4, 6, 9, 12-21, 23, 26, and 29-34 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated, allegedly, by U.S. Patent Pub. No. 2003/0120665 A1 (“Fox”). The cancellation of Claims 13, 17, 30, and 34 obviates the rejections of those claims. The rejection of Claims 1-4, 6, 9, 12, 14-21, 23, 26, 29, and 31-33 is traversed for at least the reasons discussed below.

A. Claims 1-4, 6, 9, 18-21, 23, and 26

According to Claim 1, a schema evolver receives a document that indicates changes that are to be made to a first XML schema. The schema evolver generates a second XML schema based on the first XML schema and the document that indicates the changes.

This is different from what Fox discloses. According to Fox, there is “a transformation generator [alleged “schema evolver”] for **generating a transformation** from the first schema into the second schema” (paragraph [0072], last 4 lines). Fox doesn’t generate the second schema based on the first schema and the “transformation.” Instead, Fox generates the “transformation” from the first schema (the “source data schema”) **and** the second schema (the

“target data schema”). The “transformation” can’t be generated until the second schema already exists.

Fox describes how this “transformation” is generated with reference to FIG. 1. “At step 120, a source data schema and a target data schema are imported” (paragraph [0104]). “At step 180, a transformation is derived for transforming data conforming with the source data schema into data conforming with the target data schema” (paragraph [0107]). It is clear from this description that the “transformation,” which is “for transforming data that conforms to the source data schema into data that conforms to the target data schema” is “derived” from the source and target data schemas rather than the target data schema being derived from the source data schema and the “transformation.”

One advantage of the method of Claim 1 is that a user does not need to manually change a first schema into a second schema. Instead, for example, the user can generate the document that indicates the changes, and then the schema evolver can use the document to make the changes to the first schema in order to produce the second schema automatically. Because Fox’s approach requires the source and target schemas to exist before the “transformation” (alleged “document”) is derived, Fox’s approach does not confer such an advantage.

For at least the above reasons, Claim 1 is patentable over Fox under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e). By virtue of their dependence from Claim 1, Claims 2-4, 6, 9, 18-21, 23, and 26 inherit the features of Claim 1 that are distinguished from Fox above. Therefore, Claims 2-4, 6, 9, 18-21, 23, and 26 also are patentable over Fox under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e).

B. Claims 12, 14-16, 29, and 31-33

As amended, Claim 12 recites “wherein said one or more database object types were generated based on a second XML schema that differs from said first XML schema.” The Office Action alleges that Fox discloses this limitation in paragraph [0453], lines 8-11, which say: “For example, if the given table column has data type VARCHAR2, then the choice of properties may only include properties with target type string, or compositions of properties whereby the final property in the composition has target type string.” The Office Action alleges that the “target type string” is the second XML schema, and that “VARCHAR2” is a database object type (Office Action, footnote 4).

However, “target type string” is not an XML schema in any way. As used in Fox, a “string” is a data type that comprises a sequence of one or more characters, as is well known in the art. As those skilled in the art are well aware, although an XML schema may comprise a “string,” the mere fact that an XML schema comprises a “string” does not make every “string” an XML schema. Not every string has the qualities that an XML schema has. Therefore, the two are not identical or interchangeable.

Additionally, Claim 12 recites that the “database object types” must have been “generated based on” the “second XML schema.” Thus, if Fox’s “target type string” is taken to be analogous to the “second XML schema” of Claim 12, and if Fox’s “VARCHAR2” is taken to be analogous to the “database object types” of Claim 12, then Fox’s “VARCHAR2” must have been “generated based on” Fox’s “target type string.” Fox does not indicate that this is the case. Fox does not indicate that “VARCHAR2” (alleged “database object types”) was “generated

based on” any XML schema whatsoever. Actually, “VARCHAR2” is a well-known data type that comes built-in to a popular database system. Therefore, the Office Action’s proposed analogy does not fit the method of Claim 12.

Therefore, Fox fails to disclose, teach, or suggest “wherein said one or more database object types were generated based on a second XML schema that differs from said first XML schema” as recited in Claim 12. For at least the above reasons, Claim 12 is patentable over Fox under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e). By virtue of their dependence from Claim 12, Claims 14-16, 29, and 31-33 inherit the features of Claim 12 that are distinguished from Fox above. Therefore, Claims 14-16, 29, and 31-33 also are patentable over Fox under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e).

CLAIM REJECTIONS—35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 5, 7, 8, 22, 24, and 25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable, allegedly, over Fox in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,636,845 B1 (“Chau”).

Claims 10, 11, 27, and 28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable, allegedly, over Fox in view of U.S. Patent App. No. 2002/0007363 A1 (“Vaitzblit”).

The rejections are traversed. The Office Action does not even allege that either Chau or Vaitzblit discloses, teaches, or suggests the features of Claim 1 or Claim 12 that are distinguished from Fox above. Therefore, even if Fox, Chau, and Vaitzblitz were combined, the combination still would not disclose the features of Claim 1 and Claim 12 that Fox alone fails to disclose. By virtue of their dependence from either Claim 1 or Claim 12, Claims 5, 7, 8, 10, 11, 22, 24, 27, and 28 inherit the features of either Claim 1 or Claim 12 that are distinguished from

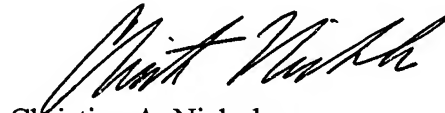
such a combination. Therefore, Claims 5, 7, 8, 10, 11, 22, 24, 27, and 28 are patentable over Fox, Chau, Vaitzblitz, and any combination of these references, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner allow all of the pending claims and issue a Notice of Allowance in this matter. The Applicant's Attorney, undersigned, invites the Examiner to call the telephone number listed below if the Examiner believes that vocal communication would help to expedite prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,

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on 5/25/06 by Judy Paradisi